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1. Armenian Assembly of America

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

The Armenian Assembly of America is a nationwide non-profit organization established in 1972 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Assembly promotes public awareness of Armenian issues, encourages greater Armenian-American participation in the American democratic process, and assists in humanitarian and development programmes in Armenia. The Assembly has offices in Los Angeles, Boston, New York City and Armenia, where it also maintains a non-governmental organizations training and resource centre.

Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations activities

Between 1999 and 2002, the Assembly was represented by one permanent representative to the United Nations. Since gaining a special consultative status in 1999, the Assembly's sole United Nations representative has served as a member of the NGO Committees on Human Rights and the Status of Women, and since February 2001, as Secretary of the Congo Education Committee. In addition to work in these committees, the Assembly participated in the United Nations activities as described below.

- October 2002: "Women in media" conference in preparation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- September: DPI/NGO annual conference on the theme "Rebuilding societies emerging from conflict: a shared responsibility"
- May 2002: special session of the General Assembly on children
- April 2002: World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid
- March 2002: forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- January-February 2002: twenty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- September 2001: DPI/NGO annual conference on the theme "NGOs today: diversity of the volunteer experience"
- February 2001: conference on the theme "Caring communities for the twenty-first century", organized by the International Council of Caring Communities
- January-February 2001: preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly
- August 2000: DPI/NGO annual conference on the theme "Global solidarity: the way to peace and international cooperation"
- May 2000: Millennium Forum of NGOs, held in preparation for the Millennium Summit of the General Assembly

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant activities

The Assembly's Yerevan Office Director cooperates regularly with the United Nations resident coordinator in Armenia. During his May 2002 tour of the United

States, the Assembly facilitated the meetings with the Armenian-American community. Since 1997, the Assembly's Yerevan-based non-governmental organizations training and resource centre has cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen local NGOs serving refugees, asylum-seekers and those seeking citizenship. Grants have been awarded to 16 NGOs working in the refugee/migration sector.

The Assembly cooperated with the Commission on the Status of Women, inviting Armenian-American journalist Florence Avakian to speak at its October 2002 conference on the theme "Women in media". The Assembly sponsored the participation by two young girls from Armenia and New York City in the special session of the General Assembly on children. The Assembly also sponsored Hripsime Kirakosian of the Mission Armenia NGO to participate in the World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid.

In March 2002, the Assembly cooperated with the Commission on the Status of Women by sponsoring Dr. Armine Mikayelian, an expert from Armenia, to be one of the panelists at its forty-sixth session. The Assembly worked with the Department of Public Information in preparation for the DPI/NGO annual conference in September 2001. The Assembly co-sponsored one of the conference workshops eventually cancelled due to the 11 September attacks. The Assembly's activities at the United Nations and United Nations activities in general have received frequent coverage in our press releases, the weekly *Assembly This Week* newsletter and other publications.

2. Center for International Earth Science Information Network

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

CIESIN's focus is on data- and information-processing and dissemination, with a special focus on socio-economic data on the human role in the environment and on geospatial data and information. CIESIN is not a membership organization, although it has alliances with organizations. The International Council of Science (ICSU) has designated CIESIN the World Data Center for Human Interactions in the Environment. CIESIN's funding comes from a variety of sources, including United States science agencies, multilateral agencies and national Governments.

During the period 1999-2002, CIESIN was engaged in a number of activities related to the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, major conferences and other United Nations processes.

CIESIN has organized several Commission on Sustainable Development side events over the past four years. On 27 April 2000, CIESIN, together with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, presented its work on the pilot environmental sustainability index. On 25 April 2001, CIESIN and YCELP organized a side event on the theme "The 2001 environmental sustainability index: better data for better decisions". On 27 April 2002, the Associate Director for Science Applications participated in a panel organized by the United Nations University on environmental governance.

CIESIN has been active in the United National Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) since its first meeting. The Deputy Director, an associate research scientist and a geographic information specialist from CIESIN attended the first meeting in March 2000; another CIESIN geographic information specialist attended subsequent meetings in March 2001 and June 2002. He is a technical adviser to the second administrative-level boundary working group of UNGIWG, and CIESIN staff have contributed spatial data inputs to the resulting project. In addition, CIESIN staff have provided input on standards and practices to the interoperability and metadata working groups of UNGIWG during the plenary meetings and via informal methods.

The Associate Director for Science Applications attended the Word Summit on Sustainable Development in August-September 2002. He participated in a panel on sustainability science at a forum on science technology and innovation for sustainable development, sponsored by ICSU and others, and participated in a briefing given by the Columbia University Earth Institute.

CIESIN sent a representative to most of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

3. Life For Relief and Development

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Life For Relief and Development is a non-profit humanitarian relief organization dedicated to the alleviation of human suffering regardless of race, colour, religion or cultural background. Since its inception in 1993, LIFE has offered services and assistance to millions of people worldwide.

Our programmes are designed to address both social and economic deficiencies found within numerous societies that are often intensified by a lack of socio-economic development and limited resources at the grass-roots level.

LIFE headquarters is located in Southfield, Michigan. Currently, LIFE also has offices in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Sierra Leone. Our presence in these countries helps strengthen communities by supporting local comprehensive community development strategies, and facilitates the distribution of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations.

LIFE attended the NGO Millennium Forum in New York City in May 2000. It attended drafting committee sessions and was involved in the submission of two statements included in the final Millennium Forum document, concerning Iraq and Sierra Leone.

LIFE attended the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development in Geneva in June 2000 and participated in working group meetings to finalize the draft outcome.

LIFE attended the DPI/NGO annual conference on the theme "Global solidarity: the way to peace and international cooperation" in August 2000. It attended working group meetings to help bridge the gap between NGOs and

Governments. NGOs met to discuss ways to lobby Governments to ensure that policies and issues discussed during the Millennium Summit would be implemented.

LIFE attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August-September 2002. It attended plenary sessions and supported NGO representatives from different key groups, such as women, farmers, indigenous people, mountain communities, business and industry, as well as youth, which addressed the plenary on the issues of water, sanitation, energy, agriculture, biodiversity, ecosystems and health care.

LIFE, along with other NGOs, lobbied Governments on issues that threaten humanity and the earth, today and in the future.

LIFE attends United Nations NGO coordination meetings, as well as NGO sector meetings hosted by UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP in the field. It has received funding from the United Nations for a number of rehabilitation projects in Iraq during this quadrennial period.

4. PanAmerican-PanAfrican Association

(Consultative status granted in 1995)

Since its founding in 1968, the PanAmerican-PanAfrican Association has had a long history of activities that have supported the principles and mission of the United Nations. As the cornerstone of its organizational philosophy (and in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals), the PanAmerican-PanAfrican Association seeks to promote the concept of "mutuality of benefit" between developing and developed nations in international trade relations, intra-national and international cultural arts exchange programmes, student exchange programmes and educational exchange programmes. This concept of "Mutuality of Benefit" has been implemented through the sharing of past and present experiences and knowledge with those societal entities which are experiencing upward bound advances in such areas as cultural, educational and economic exchange, as well as religious and human rights, without imposing its programme objectives upon other national, cultural, religious and economic groups of nations.

1999

The contributions of Pa/Pa were pivotal in the pursuit and receipt of permanent residency status for Liberian ex-patriots, in collaboration with the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas and the Liberian Ambassadors to the United Nations and to the United States. Pa/Pa secured the freedom of a Syrian woman who had lived in indentured servitude for 40 years and had been raped by a member of the family who had kept her in bondage.

2000-2002

In its efforts to internationalize the concepts of "mutuality of benefit" as it relates to international trade, cultural and educational exchange, in January 2001, Pa/Pa Japan was established. Pa/Pa Japan is committed to the development of mutually beneficial relationships between developed countries (particularly Japan) and developing nations, particularly in Africa and Latin America. As Pa/Pa United

Nations NGO representatives, Pa/Pa Japan actively promotes the United Nations goals of developing understanding between peoples of different nations, cultures and religions.

Pa/Pa attended the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok in February 2000. In April 2000, Jagiit Singh Hans, an internationally recognized wrestling champion (also known as Tiger Jeet Singh), was appointed as Pa/Pa NGO representative to the Council. In May 2000, a project was conceived and developed in association with Pa/Pa-Indonesia to promote Indonesia's natural resources and its large/medium and small agri-businesses as it joins the global economy. In December 2000, in response to devastating floods in November 2000 in Indonesia, Pa/Pa affiliates in Japan contributed $10,000 towards flood relief, and also petitioned the Government of Japan to send goods to help relieve the suffering of the approximately 75,000 people in western Sumatra who were affected by the floods.

In June 2001, Pa/Pa collaborated with Zero Emission No Impact Technology to develop technologies to improve crop production and promote ecologically sound industries.

During 2000-2002, Pa/Pa joined members of the Onondaga Indian Nation on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples at United Nations Headquarters in their campaign to condemn the 1998 brutal police attack committed against the Onondaga Nation during a religious ceremony. Following the mandates of the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to promote indigenous journalism, Pa/Pa assisted members of the Onondaga Nation in producing a newspaper, *The Onondaga Progressive*, which was circulated at the 2002 International Day.

In January 2002, Pa/Pa joined many NGO organizations in condemning the Nigerian Government's intentions to impose a death sentence on a young unwed mother who had given birth to a child. In June 2002, Pa/Pa attended the World Food Summit in Rome. In September 2002, Pa/Pa awarded a grant for a deprived African-American middle school student to attend one of the finest private schools in the United States, where he excelled despite his troubled past.

In its capacity as the conduit for pledges from the Bedford International Financial Corporation, Pa/Pa continues to direct contributions towards, inter alia, African famine relief and AIDS reduction and prevention programmes; the African-American History Museum; Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia; and a homeless shelter for the poor in Washington, D.C.

5. Transnational Radical Party

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a Gandhian non-violent international political organization founded in Italy in 1955. Since its affiliation with the Council in 1995, TRP has participated in several United Nations forums and focused its United Nations-related work on the promotion and ascertainment of civil and political rights; support for all bilateral and multilateral actions to promote democracy worldwide; support of the activities of the United Nations ad hoc

tribunals and for the establishment of an International Criminal Court; the support of the adoption of a universal moratorium of capital executions by the General Assembly; support for a reform of United Nations conventions on narcotic and psychotropic substances; support for the use of Internet technologies the world over to foster civil liberties and democracy; and support for freedom of scientific research and for the civilian conversion of military expenses.

Participation in the work of United Nations conferences, commissions, etc.

TRP sent delegations to the fifty-fifth through fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, delivering statements on civil, political and economic, social and cultural rights, and women's, children's and indigenous rights, and organizing, in collaboration with other United Nations-affiliated NGOs, briefings for delegations and meetings with the press; to the fifty-first through fifty-fourth sessions of the Subcommission on Human Rights, delivering statements on racial discrimination, economic, social, cultural and indigenous rights as well as administration of justice, and organizing briefings for delegations and meetings with the press; to the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, delivering statements on supply reduction; to meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in 2000-2002; to the fifty-third through fifty-fifth annual DPI/NGO conferences.

After the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998, TRP participated in numerous sessions of the Preparatory Commission in 2000-2002.

TRP sent a delegation to a seminar on the interdependence between democracy and human rights, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, contributing a position paper; to the Human Rights Committee in July 2002, organizing a public presentation of its papers on Viet Nam's compliance with the international covenants on civil and political rights and a briefing with Committee experts; to the World Conference against Racism in August 2001; to the Committee on Racial Discrimination, organizing briefings with Committee experts in Geneva; to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in June 2000; to preparatory meetings for the special session of the General Assembly on children in 2001; and to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council.

Relations with other non-governmental organizations

Over the years, TRP has participated in the activities of several NGO committees and coalitions. In May 2002, it was among the founders of a steering group of NGOs that will promote activities concerning the reform of the United Nations system. For four years, TRP has been a member of CONGO.

Other international forums

A delegation of TRP participated in a conference on the community of democracies and its non-governmental forum, held in Seoul in November 2002, and in a related regional conference held in November 2002 in Bucharest.

TRP maintains a web site on which press releases, action alerts as well as a variety of United Nations-related position papers can be found. It also publishes free

of charge an electronic newsletter in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Esperanto, *TransRadicalAction*, which contains updates on its United Nations-related activities. In addition to participating in ad hoc meetings concerning the role and possible developments of the United Nations system, several TRP members have issued public statements and published commentaries in major newspapers on the subject of the United Nations.

6. Water Environment Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Since its last quadrennial report, the organization's strategic planning has confirmed that WEF's core mission components focus on:

- Educating its members to help them serve the public interest
- Promoting scientifically sound environmental practices and regulations
- Educating the public and policy makers
- Promoting public health through the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment

During the reporting period, WEF increased its programming in the area of public education, most notably youth education. WEF has been extensively involved with the International Stockholm Junior Water Prize — a prestigious international award for high school water science research — intended to increase the interest of young people worldwide in local and global water challenges. Working with UNEP, WEF has used the Prize to raise awareness of water-related public health and environmental issues. WEF has also expanded its outreach to teachers and to other youth audiences and strengthened its core programmes that educate and train environmental professionals, provide sound technical reference resources, and promote water quality protection as a means to improve public health worldwide.

Participation in conferences and meetings

Between 1999 and 2002, WEF staff and its official United Nations representative participated in a number of United Nations-related briefings, seminars and meetings, including briefings of the Commissions on Population, Human Rights, Sustainable Development, the Status of Women and Human Settlements; technical assistance discussions; and the launch of the International Year of Freshwater.

Cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations

During 2002, WEF staff held several meetings and conference calls with staff of the UNEP Regional Office for North America to explore how WEF could support UNEP through technical resources, assistance with building relationships, and raising awareness of UNEP water-related programmes and initiatives. Staff from the two groups also worked on plans for a joint WEF-UNEP symposium to promote the International Year of Freshwater (subsequently held on 22 March 2003). UNEP and WEF staffs have continued to explore the potential for collaboration, including the participation of UNEP in WEF conferences and for joint programmes to develop

materials and plan outreach for the decade of action on water. These meetings also led to the involvement of WEF in the preparations for the Global Civil Society Forum that will precede the three-day Global Ministerial Environment Forum scheduled for March 2004 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

Activities and initiatives in support of the overall goals of the United Nations

During 1999, WEF was a leader in promoting cleaner production efforts. In April 1999, the WEF Executive Director signed the UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production on behalf of the Federation. WEF routinely supports United Nations efforts to promote worldwide access to adequate sanitation and sufficient quantities of clean, safe water. During the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Secretary-General Kofi Annan and others identified water and sanitation as essential areas in which progress must be made. Through its publications, conferences and the statements of its officials, WEF has identified its support for and raised awareness of this need. Similarly, WEF has publicized the findings of the 2002 *United Nations World Water Report* and of the importance of adequate sanitation to public health. WEF promotes awareness of World Water Day annually. In recognition of World Water Day 2001, WEF co-sponsored a forum at United Nations Headquarters.

During 1999, WEF played a lead role in the World Water Vision Process that preceded the Second World Water Forum, co-sponsoring a meeting at which representatives of trade and environmental associations and government agencies worked on a vision statement for the United States; participating in meetings at which the overall Vision for the Americas was developed; playing an active role in the Forum itself; and working with the GLOBE programme, a young people's water quality monitoring project, to present their findings to a key seminar.